

## **Where Should I Site my Well?**

After determining there are no available public water sources able to serve your parcel, a new source may be developed. Prior to drilling your individual or public water system well, the proposed site must be approved.

- Individual water sources must be inspected and approved by either a licensed Department of Ecology well driller or the Island County Health Department.
- Public water sources (2 or more connections) must be inspected and approved by the Island County Health Department.

Setbacks and other requirements regarding well location include:

- ◆ Well site should be located on the highest ground possible, up-slope from potential contamination sources and should be protected from normal flooding and surface or subsurface drainage.
- ◆ You must have the right to exercise complete sanitary control of the land in a 100 foot radius around the well. Control can be gained through ownership or through other legal provisions such as recorded covenants.
- ◆ Maintain the greatest possible setback for the shoreline to mitigate seawater intrusion concerns.
- ◆ Minimum Setbacks:
  - Well to septic tank – 50 feet (individual wells), 100 feet (public wells).
  - Well to edge of septic system drain fields—100 feet.
  - Well to privies—100 feet.
  - Well to sewage transport pipelines—50 feet (individual wells), 100 feet (public wells).
  - Well to sewage or manure lagoon—100 feet.
  - Well to solid waste landfill—1,000 feet
  - Well to county road or state highway right-of-way—100 feet.
  - From concentrations of animals (e.g. stock water trough, feed rack, holding pens, chicken house or other poultry enclosure) - 100 feet.
  - From property lines- 100 feet, unless neighboring property owner grants restrictive covenant.
  - From all structures (e.g.. house, garage, barn) - 100 feet for public wells only. (Well pump house and water reservoirs are an exception, and may be within the 100 foot sanitary radius.)
  - From critical areas (e.g. streams and wetlands) - as determined by Island County Planning & Community Development.
  - From bluff - as determined by Island County Public Works.

Greater setback distances may be required by the Health officer based on geological and hydrological data or local water quality trends.

For ground water, water quality, or other specific information or requirements please contact the:

**Island County Health Department  
P.O. Box 5000  
Coupeville, WA 98239  
679-7350, 321-5111, 629-4522**